Welcome to the Oregon State University Research Forests!

The Oregon State University Research Forests consist of the McDonald Forest, the Dunn Forest, the Elizabeth Cameron Starker Demonstration Forest, and several other forests throughout Oregon. Within the McDonald Forest, you will pass through many forest types including oak woodlands, forest plantations, riparian areas, and old growth reserves.

While the Forests may feel like a public park, they are actually living laboratories, managed by the OSU College of Forestry and dedicated to teaching, research, and demonstration. College of Forestry students and faculty use the Research Forests to find new ways of sustainably managing and growing Oregon forests for conservation, education, business, and recreation.

We welcome community members to enjoy our beautiful trails on foot, horseback, or non-motorized bicycle while learning about forest ecosystems and forest management.

Be Part of the Solution!

Parking is limited, and trailheads can get congested. Here’s how you can help:
- Carpool from a central location
- Ride, run, or hike to the Forest
- Visit lower-use trailheads or during quieter times

Drive slowly and carefully on your way to the Forest. Expect to see cars pulling out of driveways, wildlife, bikes, kids, horses, runners, and dogs at any time on these residential roads. Remember that we all share the Forest. Drive and park safely, only visit open closures during open hours, keep dogs close to you on a leash, and be friendly with your fellow visitors.

For more information and tips on how to get to the trailhead without your car, and to view a webcam of the Oak Creek Parking Area, visit https://cf.forestry.oregonstate.edu/recreation/alternative-trailhead-transportation

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Contact us

The OSU Research Forests
http://cf.forestry.oregonstate.edu
541-737-4452

Guidelines & Information

Trail Use in Wet Weather

Use of trails is not allowed when travel will result in leaving a track in the mud, or when there is especially important for natural surface trails such as Dave’s, Vineyard Mountain, Beautiful, Bombs Ridge, and Powder House. Restrictions will be implemented.

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